

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

A certified copy of the priority document will be provided.

Claims 1-7 were rejected as allegedly obvious over the combination of Suzuki and Owa. Applicants respectfully traverse.

According to new claim 8, the distributing unit has two functions (best understood from Figs. 13-14). First, the distributing unit writes, into attribute data of each image file to be printed, printer IDs for specifying the printers to be used so that these printer IDs act as distributing setting information. Second, the distributing unit writes, into the attribute data of the image file to be printed, print setting information inputted from an operator with a keyboard and converted at the input command processing unit. Thus, an operating status of each printer determines the printer to be used, and an input command from the operator determines the print setting information including the number of prints.

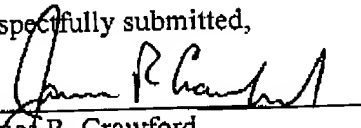
In this manner, the distributing setting information for specifying the printers to be used, as well as the print setting information for specifying the number of prints, is stored into the attribute data in each image file developed into a memory for the printing purpose. It is not believed that any of the cited references disclose these features.

In view of the foregoing, allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-KIT 328-US.

Dated: January 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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